(b) if so, the reasons for not utilising the money for modernising the equipments needed by the Army; and

(c) the action proposed to tone up the defence planning which have never run to schedule?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Accounts for the year 1999-2000 have not yet been closed and are due later during August, 2000. As such the final short-fall in expenditure is not known at this stage. However, as per the available information on progress of expenditure, the shortfall is not expected to be anywhere near Rs. 800 crores.

(c) The current Defence Plan was finalised in the first year of the Plan period.

SU-30 Deal with Russia

1891. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it isa fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General pulled up Government on its failure to ensure implementation of Rs. 6310 crores deal for the SU-30, signed with Russia in 1996;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there have been no more deliveries after May, 1997 despite an investment of Rs. 2482 crores so far and there has been a delay of 24 months in the programme; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out delays in program implementation.

(b) 8 aircrafts were delivered in 1997. However under a separate contract signed in 1998, 10 more aircrafts were delivered during 1999, bringing the total aircrafts delivered till date to 18.

(c) All efforts are being made to ensure that the delivery of the SU-30 MKI version of aircraft starts from October 2001 and is completed by 2003.

Shortage of Rations with India-UN Peacekeepers in Sierra Leone

1892. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was reported shortage of rations with Indian and other U.N. peacekeepers, surrounded in Sierra Leone;

(b) if so, the steps taken to supply necessary rations to the trapped peacekeepers; and

(c) the efforts made by the U.N. authorities in this regard and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Indian and other peacekeepers in the UNAMSIL Mission, Sierra Leone, involved in a stand-off with rebel forces in that country for some period, had adequate rations during the period of the stand-off.

Accidents of IAF Aircrafts

† l893. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. NASTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of IAF aircrafts have met with accidents during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of aircrafts met with accident in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, separately;

(c) the number of. pilot died in these accidents;

(d) the number of aircrafts lost during the Kargil war; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.